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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Jayson Richard Gowan Werth was born on May 20, 1979 in Springfield, and grew up in Chatham; and

WHEREAS, He attended Glenwood High School, where his baseball prowess is still remembered there; during his junior year, Jayson Werth, then an outstanding catcher, batted .463 with five home runs, 36 runs batted in and 22 stolen bases; the Glenwood Redskins went on to breeze through their conference, and the early stages of the State tournament, and won a nail biter against perennial powerhouse Aurora Waubonsie Valley to clinch the first State Championship in the schools history; and

WHEREAS, His senior year he upped the ante and saw his draft stock soar, hitting .652, with 15 homeruns in only 31 games; and although he signed his letter of intent to continue his baseball career at the University of Georgia, the Baltimore Orioles selected him in the first round of the 1997 amateur player draft, and he signed his first professional contract; and

WHEREAS, Jayson Werth exceeded expectations in the Minor League system of the Orioles, but he was traded to the Toronto Blue Jays in 2000, and was being used as a catcher, outfielder, and first baseman; he made his Major League debut on September

1 1, 2002 for the Blue Jays; his first complete season at the big  
2 league level he hit .262 with 16 home runs and 47 RBI; and on  
3 March 29, 2004, he was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers; and

4 WHEREAS, After playing two seasons in Los Angeles, Jayson  
5 Werth was granted free agency in December 2006; less than one  
6 week later he signed with the Philadelphia Phillies; and

7 WHEREAS, Jayson Werth became a staple in the outfield for  
8 the Phillies, playing right field, and hitting .298 during the  
9 2007 season; his success continued through the 2008 season that  
10 saw the Phillies breeze through the National League Division  
11 Series and the National League Championship Series, and go on  
12 to beat the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series; he  
13 finished the season with several notable accolades, including  
14 hitting three homeruns in one game on May 16th, in which he  
15 also tied the franchise record for most runs batted in during  
16 one game; and he led the entire Major Leagues in home runs hit  
17 against left handed pitchers, with 16 round trippers; and

18 WHEREAS, Jayson Werth had a career year during the 2009  
19 season, being named to his first All-Star team; he finished the  
20 regular season hitting .268, with career high numbers in  
21 several categories, including 36 homeruns, 99 RBI, and 20  
22 stolen bases; and

1           WHEREAS, His team's success has led him, once again, to the  
2 World Series, in which the Phillies face off against the New  
3 York Yankees; Jayson Werth has proven to be a substantial  
4 contributor in the lineup, and this trend will continue  
5 throughout the remainder of his career; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
8 congratulate and applaud Jayson Richard Gowan Werth on his  
9 individual success and the success of his current Major League  
10 team, the Philadelphia Phillies, and wish them luck in their  
11 World Series match up against the New York Yankees; and be it  
12 further

13           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 presented to Jayson Werth and his family as symbols of our  
15 respect.